

O 241132Z JUN 85  
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3998  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL TORONTO PRIORITY  
DEPTRANS WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS DUBLIN 02469

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: [EAIR](#) [ICAO](#) [CA](#) [EI](#) [IN](#) [VI](#)  
SUBJECT: BOEING 747 CRASH OFF IRISH COAST

11. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JUNE 23, AT 0813 A BOEING 747 JET (AIR INDIA 182) ENROUTE FROM MONTREAL TO BOMBAY WITH 325 PASSENGERS AND CREW ON BOARD CRASHED SOME 80 MILES OFF THE IRISH COAST. THERE ARE NO KNOWN SURVIVORS. RECOVERY OPERATIONS CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

12. ON JUNE 24 THE IRISH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SENT THE FOLLOWING NOTICE TO THE U.S. EMBASSY.

QUOTE: THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REGRETS TO HAVE TO INFORM THE EMBASSY AS FOLLOWS:

A BOEING 747 AIRCRAFT OF AIR INDIA, COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WAS LOST ON 23 JUNE 1985 AT 0713 HOURS GMT (UTC), AT 51 DEGREES N 12.05 DEGREES W. THE AIRCRAFT WAS FLIGHT AI 182 FROM MONTREAL TO LONDON. THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (325) PERSONS WERE ABOARD. THE REGISTRATION NUMBER WAS VTEFO. BODIES AND RECOVERY HAVE BEEN OBSERVED. AS OF THE PRESENT TIME, 1900 HOURS, 23 JUNE, APPROXIMATELY 60 BODIES HAVE BEEN RECOVERED AND ARE BEING LANDED IN IRELAND AT CORK. NO SURVIVORS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED. THE PRESENT NOTE IS SENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ICAO, AND IS BASED ON CURRENT INFORMATION. UNQUOTE.

13. MEDIA REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE BOEING 747 (AIR INDIA 182) FLYING FROM MONTREAL TO NEW DELHI AND BOMBAY WITH A PLANNED REFUELING STOP AT LONDON'S HEATHROW AIRPORT, AT 0800 HOURS ON JUNE 23 ENTERED THE SHANNON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AREA. AT 0813 THE PLANE DISAPPEARED FROM THE RADAR SCREEN. AIR INDIA 182 CRASHED INTO THE ATLANTIC APPROXIMATELY 80 MILES SOUTHWEST OF THE KERRY COAST. TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY EIGHT OF THESE WERE CANADIAN CITIZENS AND THE REMAINDER WERE PRESUMABLY INDIAN CITIZENS. (WE HAVE CHECKED WITH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, WHICH HAS A MANIFEST OF THE PASSENGERS ON BOARD AI 182, AND BOTH INDICATE THAT NO US CITIZENS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ON BOARD THE CRAFT).

14. THERE HAD BEEN NO INDICATION OF CONCERN FROM THE AIRCRAFT PRIOR TO ITS DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE RADAR SCREEN. THE PLANE'S WREACKAGE WAS SPREAD OVER A FOUR TO FIVE MILE AREA. FOLLOWING THE CRASH THE SHANNON MARINE RESCUE CENTER INITIATED AN INTERNATIONAL RESCUE MISSION IN COOPERATION WITH THE IRISH AIR CORPS, RAF, AND US ARMY ELEMENTS. THESE RESCUE AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT JUNE 23 UNTIL 11:00 P.M. AT NIGHT RECOVERING BODIES. AS OF MONDAY, JUNE 24, SOME 70 BODIES HAD BEEN RECOVERED AND TRANSPORTED TO TEMPORARY MORTUARY FACILITIES IN THE CORK AREA.

15. IRISH AND INDIAN AIR SAFETY OFFICIALS ARE NOW INVESTIGATING THE AIRCRAFT DISASTER WITH MOST EXPERTS ALLEGING A BOMB AS THE MOST PROBABLE CAUSE.

BOYLE